THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 23.12.96 has directed that the political parties which are recognised as national parties by the Election Commission may be provided government accommodation and the Government should abide, regarding the number, by the advice to be given by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

(b) Sanctions were issued for allotment of 1 type-III and 2 Type-II quarters in favour of Bharatiya Janta Party for its employees on 19.7.95. The sanctions have not been operated due to interim order dated 17.7.95 of the Supreme Court of India.

(c) to (f) In terms of the directions of the Supreme Court of India, revised guidelines for allotment of residential accommodation to the political parties are being framed. The number of residential units to be allotted to the political parties will be decided in consultation with the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Vice-Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

**Demand of Petroleum**

1812. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have considered the measures to check the ever increasing demand of petroleum and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have identified the areas in the country where the demand of petroleum and petroleum products can be reduced; and

(d) if so, the names of such areas and the percentage of demand of these products in these areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) Fuels including petroleum fuels are a source of energy which is absolutely essential for the growth and sustained economic development. The growth in the GDP implies growth in consumption of energy. The share of petroleum products, i.e., liquid fuels, in the total energy-mix in India is lower that that in the advanced countries. As the country has adopted a higher growth rate of GDP of 7% during the IX Plan, a proportionate growth in the consumption of petroleum products is ineviatable.

The demand management of petroleum products will adversely affect the economic growth of the country. However, as the country is not self-sufficient in the production of oil and is heavily dependent on imports, it is necessary to promote efficient and optimum utilisation of petroleum products. This is sought to be achieved by promoting fuel substitition, regulated supply of products like kerosene, LPG and naphtha influencing demand by pricing mechanism and conservation measures.

*[English]*

**Exploration of Hydrocarbon**

1813. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has a plan for conducting any surveys for resuming drilling operations for exploration of hydrocarbon in foothills of Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has offered any bids for exploration under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme (1995); and

(d) if so, the bids received by the Government and the names of bidders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of exploration, seismic data acquisition is undertaken in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri and Najot-Ramnagar areas and 75 GLK in Poonch-Kalakot-Rajauri area and 46 SLK in Najot-Ramnagar have already been acquired so far. Interpretation of seismic data, under acquisition now will be carried out in conjunction with all geological data obtained so far. Any techno-economically viable prospect, if brought out, would be considered for exploratory drilling.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the joint venture exploration programme (1995), two blocks, one completely and other partly falling in the state of J&K in Himalayan foothills were offered for exploration but no bids were received.

*[Translation]*

**Shortage of Power**

1814. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Power shortage may accrue Rs. 4,50,000 crore GDP loss" appearing in The Observer dated December 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;